

## House Republican Press Release

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### Witkos Calls for Special Session to Implement Gas Tax Holiday



#### ***Proposal Could Offer Relief from State Gas Tax for Summer Months***

HARTFORD- State Representative Kevin Witkos (R-Canton) is calling on legislative leaders to convene a special session of the Connecticut General Assembly for the purpose of enacting temporary relief from Connecticut's high gasoline tax for Connecticut motorists. Under a proposal by Representative Witkos, Connecticut would temporarily repeal its 25 cent per gallon gasoline tax during the summer months leading up to Labor Day.

"The residents of Connecticut continue to pay one of the highest gasoline taxes in the nation," said Representative Witkos. "We have a surplus because we taxed everyone and everything too much. We should give money back to Connecticut motorists, and this is a great way to do it, while offering some savings at the pump."

Representative Witkos offered the proposal during the regular session of the General Assembly, but the item was never called prior to the May 3<sup>rd</sup> constitutionally mandated adjournment date.

Witkos noted that with the state budget surplus rising to nearly \$800 million, that a temporary gas tax holiday would be a perfect way to return money to taxpayers during the summer driving season as gas prices skyrocket. The proposal would cost \$125 million to implement, well under the \$192 million of unanticipated revenues that are now estimated, and have not been incorporated to the budget adjustments passed by the legislature.

"Using money from the new surplus for this purpose would cover the cost," wrote Representative Witkos in his letter to legislative leaders. "This proposal jeopardizes neither the budget nor the transportation package."

Witkos expressed his hope that the General Assembly would take up the proposal before the summer vacation season begins in earnest.